

Appl. No.: 10/663,274
Amdt. dated 02/16/2005
Reply to Office Action of 12/17/2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the final Office Action dated December 17, 2004, Claims 1-21 are pending. The independent Claims 1 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,244,541 to Hubert in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,416,030 to Bergdahl, et al. Each of the dependent claims is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over one or more of Hubert, Bergdahl, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,884,736 to Burdisso, et al., and U.S. Patent No. 2,729,443 to Olinger.

Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 12 to more clearly point out the subject matter of the present invention. In particular, Claim 1 now recites a shock isolation system that includes at least two linear bearing assemblies, each assembly linear bearing being configured to move axially on a shaft member "such that the first and second devices are configured for relative motion therebetween in the axial direction and the bearing assemblies prevent a rotation between the first and second devices about an axis defining the axial direction." Similarly, Claim 12 recites an aerospace vehicle including a boost device, a kill vehicle, and linear bearing assemblies that "prevent a rotation between the boost device and the kill vehicle." This feature is shown, e.g., in Figure 1 of the application.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest such an arrangement of linear bearing assemblies. The Office Action states that Hubert, as modified by Bergdahl, et al., "moderates or limits the force or effect of rotation about the axis" because "[w]ithout element 12 rotation about the axis defining the axial direction would be unchecked until either elements 32, 34 were stretched to their limits or until the outer surface of element 14 contacted the inner surface of element 20." Office Action, page 6. However, Hubert does not teach that such a rotation is prevented, and Bergdahl, et al. is specifically designed to allow movement in a radial direction between the body portion 50 and the frame 26. Therefore, even if the multiple assemblies disclosed by Bergdahl, et al. were provided, the assemblies of Bergdahl, et al. would not "prevent a rotation" as now claimed.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that each of Claims 1-21 is allowable.

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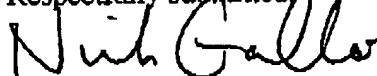
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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the remarks presented above, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. As such, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested. In order to expedite the examination of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in order to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (703) 872-9106 on the date shown below.


Lorna Morehead

February 16, 2005
Date

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